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Message Text

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67
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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---------- 012478
R 210924Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0052
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9747

FOLG SENT NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA AND MADRAS FROM BOMBAY
DTD 18 JULY.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 1792

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINT IN
SUBJ: THE SHAH AND KARANJIA

1. LEFTIST/RADICAL COMMIE-SUPPORTINT BLITZ JULY 19 ISSUE FRONTPAGES EDITOR R.K. KARANJIA'S INTERVIEW WITH SHAH IN WHICH KARANJIA SAYS SHAH "COMPREHENDS THE CAUSES, SOURCES AND LOGIC OF THE EMERGENCY PROCLAIMED IN INDIA AND SUPPORTS THE INDIRA GANDHI GOVERNMENT'S ACTION TO SAVE THE COUNTRY FROM BEING PARALYZED AND FRACTURED BY ANARCHY". KARANJIA SAYS SHAH "LIKENED THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER'S ORDEALS IN DEALING WITH EXTREMISTS OF THE RIGHT AS WELL AS THE LEFT WITH HIS OWN EXPERIENCE DURING THE EARLIER TRAUMATIC YEARS OF HIS REIGN, WHEN 'A DARK, UGLY AND STRANGE COMBINATION OF MULLAHS, LANDLORDS AND COMMUNISTS JOINED FOREIGN ELEMENTS IN A CONSPIRACY TO DISMEMBER AND DESTROY IRAN'." KARANJIA BLAMED "AMERICAN NEWS AGENCIES AND SYNDICATED TRASH" FOR THE ANTI-INDIA ARTICLES APPEARING IN IRANIAN PRESS.

2. WE HAVE BEEN PUZZLED FOR SOME TIME ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SHAH AND KARUNJIA AND CANNOT HELP WONDERING WHETHER SOME
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ILL-ADVISED IRANIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN THE PAST URGED THE SHAH TO

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PUT KARANJIA ON THE ROYAL PAYROLL. (WE HAVE THOUGHT FOR SOME TIME THAT MANY OF THE STAFF OF THE IRANIAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN BOMBAY ARE SAVAK RATHER THAN FOREIGN OFFICE. IN ANY CASE, THEY HAVE, AS A GENERAL RULE, BEEN IMPRESSIVELY UNIM-PRESSIVE.) WHATEVER THE EXPLANATION, IT IS GENERALLY ASSUMED HERE THAT KARANJIA IS ON THE SHAH'S PAYROLL. SHAH'S INTEREST IN THE LARGE PARSEE AND IRANIAN COMMUNITIES IN THIS PART OF INDIA MIGHT, IN HIS MIND, SERVE AS RATIONALE FOR A FRIENDLY PAPER, EVEN IF IT IS BLITZ.

3. EVEN ADMITTING THE SHAH'S DESIRE FOR A FRIENDLY PRESS HERE, WE WONDER IF HE KNOWS WHAT A THOROUGH-GOING SCOUNDREL KARANJIA IS. KARANJIA IS THE ANTITHESIS OF EVERYTHING THE SHAH HIMSELF STANDS FOR AND THE SHAH GIVES HIM UNDESERVED RESPECTABILITY BY RECEIVING HIM IN TEHRAN AND GIVING HIM EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS. THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN IS THAT THE SHAH DOES HIS OWN IMAGE NO GOOD BY ASSOCIATING WITH THE LIKES OF KARANJIA.

4. WE DO NOT MEAN TO IMPLY THAT THERE MAY NOT BE SKELETONS IN THE ROYAL CLOSET IN TEHRAN, BUT WE THINK THE SHAH'S CONTINUED CONNECTION WITH KARANJIA MIGHT AT ONE POINT PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. THE ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN MOSSADEGH'S OVERTHROW WOULD, AT FIRST GLANCE, SEEM TO MAKE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SHAH AND KARANJIA IMPOSSIBLE WHEN IT IS REMEMBERED THAT CIA IS ONE OF BLITZ'S MOST CONSISTENT TARGETS, PARTICULARLY NOW.

5. KARANJIA IS PRESENTLY EMBARKED ON A CAMPAIGN TO WHIP UP SUPPORT FOR MRS GANDHI, AND HIS STOP IN TEHRAN OBVIOUSLY PAID OFF. THE KARANJIA INTERVIEW WITH THE SHAH WAS PICKED UP BY UNI AND CARRIED IN THE JULY 18 TIMES OF INDIA UNDER THE HEADING "SHAH JUSTIFIES EMERGENCY STEPS BY INDIRA". WE CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF THE SHAH REALIZED THIS WOULD HAPPEN AND IF HE KNOWS JUST WHAT HE'S BITTEN OFF IN KARANJIA.
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